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To the honorable men and women of the House,

I am speaking to you today as a parent who was unable to obtain waivers for her children with the current MDHHS rules. Previous to the MDHHS rule, I have had no issues and now, was only able to get my children into school on technicalities and loopholes. That being said, I shouldn't have to stand here in fear that me telling you this will make you find those loopholes and correct them which would take away their ability to attend school. I also shouldn't worry that approaching you to help maintain my freedom as an individual and a parent will cause you to take my rights away further - as was said at a recent forum held at MSU. My children have a constitutional right to attend public school and should not be denied that based on, what I believe, is, medical discrimination. Especially when children who have some of these illness, like Hep B, are protected and may attend.

I was unable to obtain the waivers for several reasons and have problems with current rule for many reasons. Firstly, I was not going to the health department willingly. I was being forced to attend and be OBEDEIENT to the establishment. The Health Department should have no authority to force obedience on citizens. The MDHHS is what it says - SERVICES. By going to the health department I was being forced to obtain a service I did not need or want and in doing so, give out personal information to the MDHHS that I did not want to give out. I was obtaining a religious waiver and was not asked to elaborate but then again, I wasn't really even given the chance as I informed them immediately that I would not allow a copy to be made. I was told to "hire a lawyer". Now I ask you - why should I need a lawyer to obtain a form from an agency that is to provide me a service? This is a prime example of why the MDHHS needs more boundaries on what they may do. They are not a branch of legislature and should not be able to enact any "rules" or laws toward citizens as they are unable to assess any rights violations and are unaccountable for those rules.

Secondly, there was the issue of the previously mentioned copy. Although I was able to speak to Robert Swanson for over 35 minutes I was unable to reach any kind of compromise on that topic. In my conversation with Mr. Swanson he repeated stated to me that the MDHHS has no access to the files it was collecting nor access to the information held in the MCIR - which is 100% false. He explained that a child opted out of MICR would not have a file. But of course they do because of the copy made at the health department! And even if I was successful in having a copy not made, the school is told directly to file it to the MDHHS on the waiver form (Violating FERPA)- we are not allowed to alter a form and therefore are legally signing a document under duress (threat of no school admission)- and even if the child is NOT in the MCIR they file a 100/101 form which is easily found on mcir.org. My only conclusion is that Mr. Swanson thinks I am ignorant. To me that is a reflection of the entire program at MDHHS.

When I asked Mr. Swanson about making me have titers drawn for my children to prove they had an illness I WITNESSED them having (measles AND chicken pox was stated by Mr. Swanson and titers are not even accurate) yet when I pointed out other children who had been vaccinated and would have up to 5% failure rate did not have to show their immunity with titers, I was told it was my job to protect those 5% that the vaccine didn't work for. I find that highly offensive. I am not here to protect anyone but my children and my family. Those children should be protected though the MDHHS being transparent about vaccine failure and letting parents know what to look out for in the case of illness OR vaccine reaction. This doesn't happen.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is against our HUMAN rights to force anything into our bodies. To mandate any medication or biologic is medical rape. Vaccination is like a real life Hunger Game, to expect a select few to have risk and reaction and even possible death to protect the many. To say we must do this for the good of society is the very definition of deindividuation. Our country was founded on the basis of avoiding that! We are to be respected as individuals with individual liberties. Forced vaccination, whether through intimidation, threats, or any other means, is against the very principals of the United States of America.

Law is Reason Free from Passion - This is difficult in the case of vaccination as BOTH sides have a lot of passion for what they believe is right. That passion can be for many reason but the one I want to address is fear. Fear is the most powerful emotion to use to control society. On a daily basis we are bombarded with information to force us to fear and then comply with what is accepted as "safer". Here is the truth: vaccines protect no one because in the end we are all born to eventually die. This can happen for any number reasons and to assume you have prevented death through vaccinations is a logical fallacy and frankly, arrogant. Statistics may seem to show vaccines prevent illness but that is only the illness they are meant to - and only temporarily at best! I would suggest everyone look at the rise in all other medical issues and even contagious illnesses and ask yourself if vaccinations have truly helped us be as a society be healthier. I am certain that you will see that we are not. This is where I expect you as law makers to start from and to consider our rights as individuals, without the "passion" that people have for the topics. If you continue to allow the MDHHS to create rules, you are allowing "law" to be established with passion, as the people of MDHHS have decided passions for what they feel they are accomplishing. But they are a service provider and nothing more.

On a personal note I have seen first hand the damage both vaccinations and the illnesses can do. It is up to the parents to decide how to raise their children and not the Government because ultimately the price is paid by them. We must constantly keep those boundaries in check to maintain our personal freedoms. I have studied vaccines, immunology and virology for over 10 years, using medical texts and seminars both for and against immunizations. I am an intelligent and well educated member of society and in my assessment of this topic we are arrogant to feel we understand vaccines or the immune system even 1%. Will we in 20 years or 50 years or maybe even more be lamenting our foolhardiness to assume we knew what we are doing? This has historically happened over and over again on many fronts. Or perhaps the idea of seeing the error of our ways will stop us from ever correcting our mistakes while, I believe, the society actually suffers from our shortsighted although well intentioned ideals.

In conclusion, I do not feel it is lawful for MDHHS to force me against my wishes to obtain a service I do not wish to, to file personal information with a state agency that I do not wish to, to have to file legal documentation to not participate in a program that should be optional - based on my religious convictions which are protected and PRIVATE under the constitution. I also think it is quite obvious that rules made by a service agency should not supercede the law. And on a personal note, the trickery and intimidation by the MDHHS should not be tolerated. My children deserve medical privacy and I should be in control of that. If true health education is the goal of the State of Michigan, there are far better ways of doing that which I would be happy to discuss with anyone interested. There are many many positive things the MDHHS can do for public health and the health of children. Intimidating parents and forcing people to do things against their human rights, is not one of them. Although I feel both of these bills only addresses the very thin surface of the problems in our current system I support them being passed and hope to have a continued discussion on these topics with the legislature.